textile in the country during the last three years was:—

| Year | Total cloth production (in MTM) |
|---|---|
| 1984-85 | 12,014 |
| 1985-86 | 12,498 |
| 1986-87 | 12,777 (anticipated) |

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

**Glut in cotton**

820. SHRI SURAJ PRASAD: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is glut of cotton in the market;

(b) whether it is also a fact that cotton prices have depressed;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the cotton growers are demanding export of fifteen lakh bales of cotton; and

(d) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) The Second All India Cotton Producers' Conference at Akola urged for export of atleast 20 lakh bales.

(d) Government have announced a long term export policy of cotton for export of 5 lakh bales of long/extra long staple cotton and 50,000 bales each of Bengal Deshi and Digvijay varieties per annum on a continuous basis for a period of three years beginning from the current cotton season. A quantity of 2,67,000 bales of long/extra long staple cotton and 50,000 bales of Bengal Deshi have been released so far during 1986-87.

**Incidents involving insult to national symbols, ETC.**

821. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of incidents involving insult to national symbols or open call of boycott of National celebrations that came to Government's notice during the last six months;

(b) what action has been taken in such cases; and

(c) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to make the law more stringent so as to ensure that due respect is given to National Anthem, National Flag and National Emblem as well as to the Republic and Independence Days by every citizen?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) Information is yet awaited from 20 States/Union Territories and will be laid on the Table of the House. However, with regard to the remaining 11 States/Union Territories the available information is given in the statement which is laid on the Table of the House (*See* bolew). The Babri Masjid Action Committee initially gave a call for boycott of the Republic Day; some more organisations also joined the boycott move. However, the Babri Masjid Action Committee subsequently withdrew the boycott call.

(c) No such proposal is at present under the Government's consideration. However, while punishment for a breach is imperative, more and

more deterrent action alone cannot preserve and protect national honour; national honour is a concept to be cherished and to be proud of. It is the duty of every Indian without any exception to uphold national honour.

**Statement**

No such incident was reported by Gujarat, Haryana, Manipur, Nagaland, Andaman & Nicobar, Chandigarh, Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Lakshadweep and Pondicherry. Government of Maharashtra have reported 11 incidents in which investigations are in progress and the conclusions of which will be intimated. The Government of Gao, Daman and Diu have reported two incidents in which 7 persons have been arrested and charge-sheeted.

**Import of fertilizers**

@822. SHRI DINKARRAO GOVINDRAO PATIL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item which appeared in the "Hindustan Times" of the 27th December, 1986 under the caption 'Fertilisers import foreign exchange outgo can be brought down if so, the details thereof; and

(b) what action Government propose to take to save foreign exchange?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) Yes, Sir. The news item in essence states that Indian imports of fertilizers are effected when market conditions are bullish resulting in imports at high prices.

(b) Import of fertilizer has a residual role in meeting the needs of the farmers for agriculture and in fulfilling the gap between demand and indigenous production. Import plan is scheduled so as to ensure timely availability of fertilizers to the farmers based on the annual as well as seasonal requirements of crops. International prices of fertilizers fluctuate according to the demand and supply position in the world. Efforts are being made to arrange fertilizer imports at most economic prices and maximise purchases of fertilizers from Rupee Payment Area to conserve free foreign exchange (FFE).

**Boycott of Republic Day**

823. SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that certain groups had issued statements and call for boycott of Republic Day; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) Yes Sir.

The Babri Masjid Action Committee initially gave a call for boycott of the Republic Day. Some more organisations also joined the boycott move. However, the Babri Masjid Action Committee subsequently withdrew the boycott call.

**Narmada Project**

824. SHRI MIRZA IRSHADBAIG: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) what progress has so far been made with regard to the disposal of

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@Previously Unstarred Question 437, transferred from the 27th February, 1987.